

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

## **Douglas County WICORTS meeting minutes**

**Hosted by Douglas County Sheriff Thomas Dalbec and Emergency Management Director Keith Kessler**

### **Presentation by John Verhyen, WICORTS Chairperson**

The SIEC was established on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 by Governor Doyle with executive order #87. This decision making organization needs the support of all public safety agencies.

We all need to be working together. If we are going to a statewide system a trunked system must be considered. Agencies will need to have memorandums of understanding in place with other agencies to assure that they can move forward without personality problems later. A 20-year MOU or something reasonably close to that is recommended. This is due to changes in command and folks changing positions. Different people have different ideas on how things should progress. The state is partnering with local agencies to build tower sites and share costs and other resources. If a county agency is going to implement a new system it should think about providing fire and EMS with radios as well.

Share information with your executives as soon as possible. This will give them an opportunity to weigh the options and hopefully buy into the program early.

When a statewide system is implemented any public safety agency can request and will receive an interoperability connection into the system. This connection would be a talk group that they can use. Sharing of frequencies will be necessary for success of the statewide system. The State Patrol has and is purchasing clear channel frequencies that can be used for control channels. The control channels must operate on clear frequencies.

A statewide system will probably be specified as 95% coverage 95% of the time for mobile coverage. Better specifications can be obtained but would require a much higher price tag. Portable coverage will be specified but not until we evaluate exactly where we are at the point of implementation.

OJA has awarded the DOT a \$25,000 grant for the purposes of doing a statewide trunked system frequency study. Many factors are being taken into consideration and the Bureau of communications is working with CTA very closely to get the most accurate projections possible.

Michigan's system cost so much because they had to do a lot of land acquisition, build all new 500' towers with tower top amplifiers and are using the 800 MHz frequency band.

If you are going to buy a communications system, include training for the users. Define and plan for the future as well as the present for items like ongoing software maintenance agreements. Negotiate the contract before it is awarded not after.

Gale Sorum – SIEC consultant:

Gale handed out the new SIEC flyer. There are about 30 states with SIECs already. A person from an interoperability meeting in Georgia spoke to the many problems that Georgia had in forming an SIEC. Georgia has 129 counties. The key is to take it slow and make sure all that need to be informed be informed at whatever level of understanding works for them.

OJA has been spending 04 money. The 2005 interoperability money is yet to be opened up for application. We don't know what the numbers will be for 2006 but should hear something by February 2006.

Radio equipment must be P25 compatible to receive funds under the 2004 grant. The radios must be compliant to qualify for the 2005 funds. Definitions for the terms used in regards to radio status will be posted on the OJA web site soon. The P25 process was started in 1986.

What happens when your equipment has to be upgraded to additional standards? Will the vendor do this? What may it cost? Will your radios be too old? These are just a few of the items to discuss with your vendor.

Edward Anderson:

Douglas County is adding MDCs to the squads. They also have purchased a mug shot program to access mug shots in the squads. The program is ready. He asked if it would be possible to send through the State Patrol system. John Verhyen stated that it probably will not be allowed at this point in time. The future may bring other improvements, capacity or technology that may change that. Won't be for a long time yet. In the meantime John told Edward to talk to John Gifford. Edward also feels that there is no reason why the DOT database of driver license pictures shouldn't be made available to every law enforcement agency for security purposes.